

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Kenton Mullins on 05/04/2010.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 1. A method of using a resorbable polymer base material in combination with an implant for attenuating adhesions between the implant and surrounding tissue following a surgical procedure in a human patient, the method comprising: providing a nonporous, resorbable polymer base material; heat-shrinking the resorbable polymer base material in a form of a resorbable thin membrane around the implant to thereby cover surfaces of the implant, wherein the resorbable thin membrane comprises a resorbable polymer consisting essentially of: a lactide polymer; or a copolymer of two or more cyclic esters; applying the implant and the resorbable thin membrane to a human patient in a region, which is susceptible to adhesions as a consequence of the surgical procedure; and attenuating an occurrence of adhesion between the implant and surrounding tissue at the region within the human patient by way of the presence of the resorbable thin membrane positioned at the region within the patient.

In claim 2, line 10, "edge" has been deleted, and – resorbable thin membrane comprises an edge which – inserted.

In claim 3, line 2, "the edge" has been deleted, and – an edge of the resorbable thin membrane – inserted.

In claim 4, line 1, "the edge" has been deleted, and – an edge of the resorbable thin membrane – inserted.

In claim 5, line 2, "the edge" has been deleted, and – an edge of the resorbable thin membrane – inserted.

Claim 6. The method according to claim 1, wherein: an edge of the resorbable thin membrane is 2-4 times thicker than the substantially uniform thickness.

In claim 14, line 1, "the edge" has been deleted, and – an edge of the resorbable thin membrane – inserted.

In claim 19, line 1, "the edge" has been deleted, and – an edge of the resorbable thin membrane – inserted.

In claim 21, line 1, "the edge" has been deleted, and – an edge of the resorbable thin membrane – inserted.

Reasons for Allowance

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The prior art teaches disposing a 100% polylactic acid film implants for attenuating adhesion of tissue to tissue or tissue to bone. (See Bakker et al.) The prior art however lacks a teaching of heat-shrinking or heating such a film to the implants. For the foregoing reasons, claims 1-29 and 34-36 are allowed.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ali Soroush whose telephone number is (571) 272-9925. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday 8:30am to 5:00pm E.S.T.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's Supervisor, Johann Richter can be reached on (571) 272-0646. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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